

Brucellosis Project Update December 2012

Keri Carson and pilot Neil Cadwell flew the study area on Wednesday, December 19th and located all 30 radiocollared elk. Elk were spread widely across the study area with some on winter and summer ranges and others in the process of migrating.

Two radiocollared elk were harvested during hunting season. One elk (108) was harvested on the west side of the Blacktails and the other elk (114) was harvested in Idaho. Two ear-tagged elk were harvested west of I15 in the Tendoys, and one ear-tagged elk was harvested east of I15 in the Blacktails. These three elk were ear tagged during the January 2012 capture, but they did not receive radiocollars.

The 2013 elk capture and brucellosis testing is scheduled for January in the southern and western Pioneers. We will attempt to capture and blood test 100 elk in the Pioneers and fit 30 elk with GPS radiocollars. During this time we will also recapture the 5 elk in the Sage creek area that tested seropositive in 2012 and the 6 remaining seropositive elk from the 2011 Ruby capture. All seropositive elk will remain radiocollared.

The radiocollars on the seronegative elk captured in the Sage Creek area during January 2012 are scheduled to release in mid-January. We will retrieve these collars throughout the winter and download the movement data.

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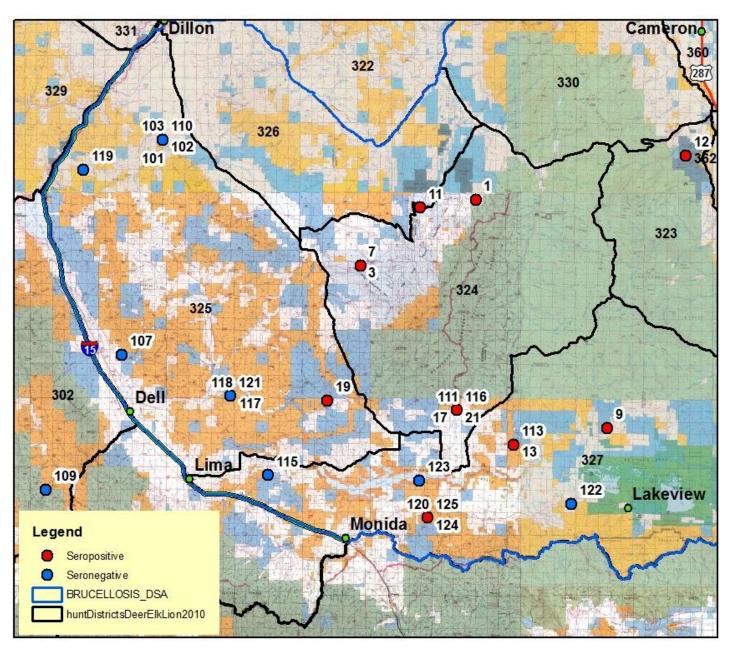


Figure 1. All collared elk located during the 12/19/12 monitoring flight. Seropositive elk are shown in red and seronegative elk are shown in blue.

Table 1. Thirty elk were captured and collared in 2012, and an additional 7 brucellosis seropositive elk from year 1 of this study were also recaptured and collared. Seven collared elk have died or were harvested in 2012.

		First capture		Pregnancy	
ID#	Capture Area	year	Serostatus	status (2012)	Most recent location
1	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	NW Snowcrest
3	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Blacktail WMA
5	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Mortality 4/15/12
7	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Blacktail WMA
9	Ruby	2011	Positive	Pregnant	Murphy Cr. N. of Refuge
11	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	Robb Ledford WMA
12	Ruby	2011	Positive	Open	Wall Creek WMA
13	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	Antelope Peak
15	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	SE Snowcrest
17	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	SE Snowcrest
19	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Little Basin Creek
21	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Pregnant	SE Snowcrest
101	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Sheep Cr NE Blacktails
102	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Sheep Cr NE Blacktails
103	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Sheep Cr NE Blacktails
104	Clark Canyon	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Mortality Oct 2012
105	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Mortality Oct 2012
106	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Mortality 2/24/12
107	Kidd Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Ashbough Canyon
108	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Hunter Harvest 10/20/12
109	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Tendoys
110	Red Rock Exit	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Sheep Cr NE Blacktails
111	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	SE Snowcrest
112	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Mortality 3/27/12
113	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Antelope Peak
114	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Hunter Harvest in Idaho
115	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	W. of Lima Reservoir
116	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	SE Snowcrest
117	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Basin Creek
118	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Basin Creek
119	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Henneberry Gulch Blacktails
120	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	W. of Price Cr. Centennials
121	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Basin Creek
122	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Curry Cr. Centennials
123	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	Lima Reservoir
124	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Positive	Open	W. of Price Cr. Centennials
125	Little Basin Cr/ Sage	2012	Negative	Pregnant	W. of Price Cr. Centennials